



Sistema
Comunitario
Europeo (BI)
Grado en RRII
2018-19



UNIVERSIDAD
NEBRIJA

SYLLABUS

Course: Sistema Comunitario Europeo BI (EN) / EU Studies

Grade: International Relations

Formation: Mandatory

Language: English

Credits: 6ECTS

Year: 4

Semester: 1

Academic year: 2018-19

Professor: Álvaro Imbernón

1. Skills and competences

1.1. Specific Abilities

- Capacity to select and organize information for the study of the institutional and legal framework of the European Union.
- Knowledge and comprehension of the EU building process and the different developments of the integration process.
- Knowledge of the Union's policies, their functioning, goals and limitations.

1.2. Learning objectives

- Understand the historical development of European politics, economics, society and culture.
- Improve their knowledge of Europe and its diversity.
- Critically follow and interpret the main social, economic and political aspects of European integration process since 1945 to the present.
- Recognize and analyse various issues, debates and trends in modern and contemporary Europe.
- Debate ideas and concepts of Europe and European integration.
- View Europe within a wider international and global perspective.
- Synthesize information from a variety of sources, including written sources, podcasts, newsletters, documentaries, and films.

1.3. Learning results

- Acquire knowledge of the way the European institutions work.
- Capacity to apply that knowledge into practical cases.
- Ability to transmit and present that knowledge.
- Have a command of basic legal terminology (and acronyms) and be able to interpret legislation.

2. CONTENT

2.1. Prerequisites

None.

2.2. Brief description of the contents

This course will cover relevant political, economic, and social aspects of the European Union (EU) by unfolding the process of gradual integration. Special attention will be paid to current affairs and the debate about its future. Students will acquire basic intellectual skills through critical thinking, considering questions of why and how events occurred.

The course will pay special attention to the European integration process and the different stages of its construction through history. Study and analysis of the European political system as well as its institutional framework and the decision making process, its strengths and weaknesses, application of European common policies, enlargement processes and the EU as an international actor. At the end of the semester the course will deal with the economic and institutional crisis affecting the EU since 2008, evaluating challenges and new avenues for development.

2.3. Detailed content

- 1. The EU Today: key figures.**
- 2. Introduction I. Why Europe? Context.**
- 3. Introduction II. Why the EU?**
- 4. Introduction III. History of Integration. Milestones. Integration dynamics.**
- 5. Integration: EUropes.**
- 6. Enlargement.**
- 7. The Treaties I: Before Lisbon.**
- 8. The Treaties II: After Lisbon.**
- 9. The EU law.**
- 10. The EU law II.**
- 11. How it is Governed I: The European Council.**
- 12. How it is Governed II: The Council of the EU.**
- 13. Midterm. Role-play I.**
- 14. Midterm. Role-play II.**
- 15. How it is Governed III: The Commission.**
- 16. How it is Governed IV: The European Parliament.**
- 17. Parties & Elections. EU Party System? Euroskepticism, extreme right and populism. Federalism.**
- 18. European elections: Spitzenkandidaten.**

19. How it is Governed V: Judicial Branch. The European Court of Justice (ECJ). Other Institutions: Committee of the Regions (CoR), European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
20. Common Foreign and Security Policy. European Neighborhood Policy. The EU in the World.
21. Other EU Policies: Social Policy and Employment, Common Agricultural Policy, Justice and Home Affairs, Citizenship.
22. The ECB.
23. The Eurocrisis and the European economic governance I.
24. The Eurocrisis and the European economic governance II.
25. The EU Today II: The debate on the future of the EU.
26. Recap: What have we learnt?

2.4. Activities

During the course debates, activities, practices, and projects will be developed.

“Targeted Activities”:

- TA1. Newsletter: Students must read an EU daily newsletter (Brussels Playbook by Politico) and demonstrate in class the knowledge acquired.
- TA2. Hearings: a role-play in which students will have to impersonate European commissioners on a "hearing" the European Parliament.
- TA3. SOTEU: a role-play based on the State of the European Union address.

3. Evaluation

3.1. Criteria

Regular evaluation

On-site course

Evaluation system	%
Attitude and participation.	15%
Midterm exam (Role-play and academic activities)	30%
Final exam	55%

Evaluation of distance learning module

Evaluation system	%
Final exam	70%
Academic activities	30%

Secondary evaluation

On-site course

Evaluation system	%
Final exam	100%

Evaluation of distance learning module

Evaluation system	%
Final exam	100%

3.2. Restrictions

In order to successfully pass this course, the student needs to complete a minimum of 80% of the required hours and receive 50% of the total points available. Any grade below that is considered a fail.

All class work will be assigned in advance. Individual work must be turned in by the student on the due date; group projects must be turned in on the due date by the members of the group and then presented by the group in the class room. Late projects by the individual or the group will not be considered.

The student will lose the attitude/participation grade.

3.3. Plagiarism

La Universidad Antonio de Nebrija no tolerará en ningún caso el plagio o copia. Se considerará plagio la reproducción de párrafos a partir de textos de auditoría distinta a la del estudiante (Internet, libros, artículos, trabajos de compañeros...), cuando no se cite la fuente original de la que provienen. El uso de las citas no puede ser indiscriminado. El plagio es un delito.

En caso de detectarse este tipo de prácticas, se considerará Falta Grave y se podrá aplicar la sanción prevista en el Reglamento del Alumno.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Text Book:

Simon Hix and Bjørn Høyland (2011) The Political System of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan, London, UK.

K.-D. Borchardt (2018) The ABC of European Union law, EU Publications Office, Brussels. [Free online.](#)

Online Reference & Research Tools: Please see the “EU Dossier” provided by the professor. Further readings will be provided by the professor via WebCampus.

Other:

Brussels Playbook newsletter (Politico Europe)

5. PROFESSOR

Name	Álvaro Imbernón Sáinz
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Location	Princesa Campus.
Tutoría	Please contact via email
Brief CV	<p>Álvaro is political scientist specialized on International Relations and EU affairs. He holds two Master's degrees in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto) and the Diplomatic School of Spain. He has experience of research and international advocacy having worked for the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the Spanish Presidency of the EU and the United Nations University (Tokyo) at the Peace & Governance Programme. Álvaro has also worked as a consultant in Brussels, Osaka and Yangon (Burma/Myanmar) and collaborated with the pan-European think tank FEPS, ESADEgeo-Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics and the World Economic Forum.</p> <p>Currently he works as a partner in the political risk firm quantio and as national researcher for the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).</p> <p>In his spare time Álvaro contributes to diverse media and civil society platforms in order to encourage the citizen's involvement in EU projects. Álvaro has also served as an electoral observer for the OSCE in Azerbaijan and Bulgaria.</p>